.koisuru barairo tenchou.

by Mochimeko

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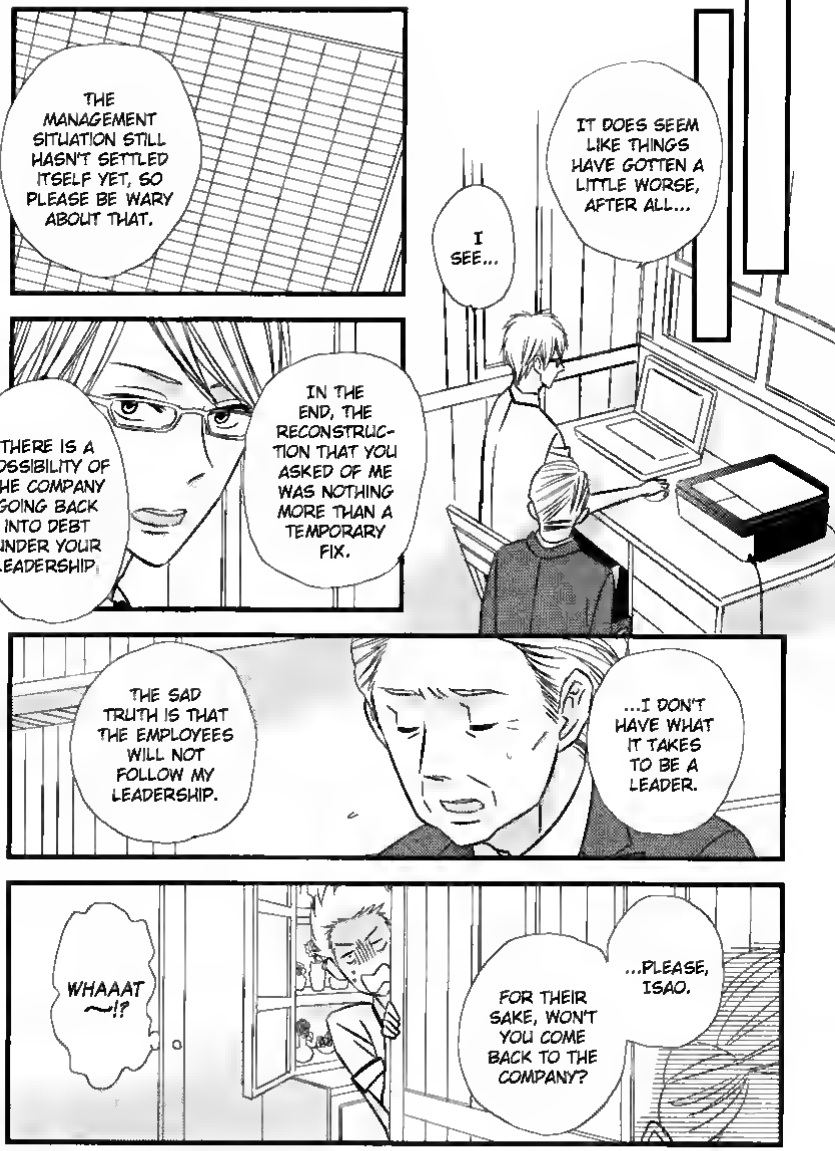
Chapter 4

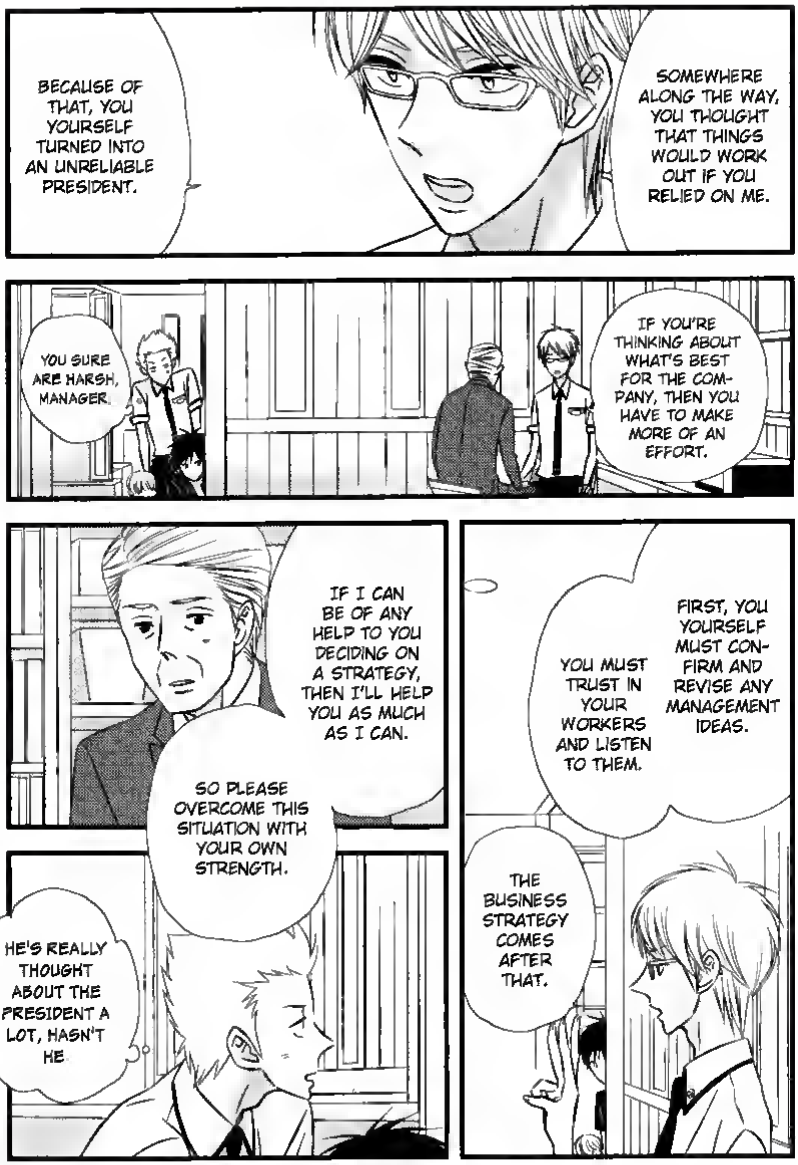
LET'S SEE HERE...
WITH THIS UPCOMING SEASON, I RECOMMEND GOING WITH SOME HOMBRE ROSES.
THE COLORS ARE VERY STYLISH, AND WOULD COMPLEMENT ANY AUTUMN FLOWERS EASILY.
Oh my, then, could I ask you to make me a bouquet with those roses?
BUT OF COURSE.
Coin de soleil
un coin de soleil
I don't suppose you like sweets, do you, manager?
I'd like to apply for your arrangement classes ~
.....
Thank you very much~
could you tell me about an arrangement that would go with these flowers?

Haa ～
HONESTLY, MANAGER
gloom
I THINK IT'S REALLY AMAZING HOW YOU'RE ABLE TO SHOW SUCH PROFESSIONALISM IN FRONT OF THE CUSTOMERS ...
BUT QUIT DYING LIKE THAT THE MOMENT YOU GO ON BREAK!
...THIS WOUND IN MY HEART STILL HASN'T HEALED YET...
drip
drip
BUT I KEEP TELLING YOU THAT IT WASN'T AS IF HE WAS TURNING YOU DOWN!
wait!!
BUT KOUTAROU-SAN AND ZEN-KUN HAVEN'T STOPPED BY THE SHOP EVER SINCE THEN...
IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE THEN!
knock knock
AH — COME ON! WE HAVE A CUSTOMER!

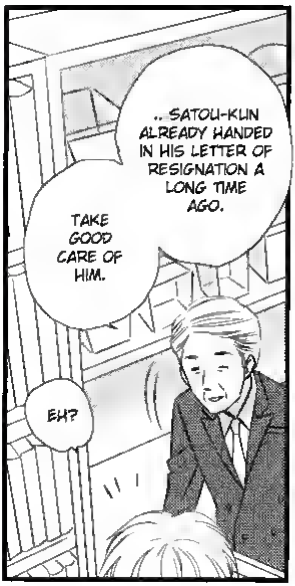
Jingle
Vroom
GOOD AFTERNOON, SATOU-KUN.
?
GOOD AFTER-NOO——
AH...!
FATHER ...
PRE-
PRE-SIDENT ...!
.....
I'VE COME TO SEE YOU BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK AT FOR ME.
IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, HASN'T IT, ISAO.


THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION STILL HASN'T SETTLED ITSELF YET, SO PLEASE BE WARY ABOUT THAT.
IT DOES SEEM LIKE THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE WORSE, AFTER ALL...
I SEE...
IN THE END, THE RECONSTRUC-TION THAT YOU ASKED OF ME WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A TEMPORARY FIX.
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF THE COMPANY GOING BACK INTO DEBT UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP.
THE SAD TRUTH IS THAT THE EMPLOYEES WILL NOT FOLLOW MY LEADERSHIP.
...I DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A LEADER.
WHAAAT ~!?
FOR THEIR SAKE, WON'T YOU COME BACK TO THE COMPANY?
...PLEASE, ISAO.

Bad timing
...AH, KOU-TAROU-SAN!
IS ISAO-KUN HERE?
...GOOD AFTER-NOON~
A CUSTO-MER?
OH, WELL, HE'S IN THE BACK WITH A CUSTOMER RIGHT NOW...
THE WORKERS WON'T FOLLOW YOU BECAUSE YOU DEPEND ON OTHERS.
No good, huh?
YOU'RE TOO KIND-HEARTED, FATHER.
Shh.
!
Shh!
...HE'S ALSO THE UESUGI COMPANY PRESIDENT.
THAT'S HIS FATHER?


BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU YOURSELF TURNED INTO AN UNRELIABLE PRESIDENT.
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, YOU THOUGHT THAT THINGS WOULD WORK OUT IF YOU RELIED ON ME.
YOU SURE ARE HARSH, MANAGER.
IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR THE COMPANY, THEN YOU HAVE TO MAKE MORE OF AN EFFORT.
IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU DECIDING ON A STRATEGY, THEN I'LL HELP YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN.
SO PLEASE OVERCOME THIS SITUATION WITH YOUR OWN STRENGTH.
HE'S REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT A LOT, HASN'T HE.
FIRST, YOU YOURSELF MUST CONFIRM AND REVISE ANY MANAGEMENT IDEAS.
YOU MUST TRUST IN YOUR WORKERS AND LISTEN TO THEM.
THE BUSINESS STRATEGY COMES AFTER THAT.

HE'S SUCH A KIND SON.
THANK YOU, ISAO.


.. SATOU-KUN ALREADY HANDED IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION A LONG TIME AGO.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
EH?

OH, AND AFTER THAT,
PLEASE RETURN SATOU-KUN BACK TO THE MANAGE-MENT PLANNING OFFICE.

HE HAS A STRONG DESIRE FOR IMPROVE-MENT, PLENTY OF VITALITY, AND IS AN INTELLECTUAL YOUNG MAN.
HE'LL DEFINITELY BE OF HELP TO UESUGI.

DID YOU THINK I WAS GOING TO QUIT WORKING HERE SOMEDAY!?
... MANA-GER!!

EVEN IF YOU TELL ME THAT I'M BEING A BOTHER TO YOU, I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF QUITTING!
BUT I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU MY WHOLE LIFE, NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO!
...I AM VERY HAPPY THAT YOU HAVE SUCH A HIGH OPINION OF ME,
SATOU-KUN?
...I'M SORRY, SATOU-KUN.
THANK YOU.
...GUESS I'LL BE ON MY WAY, THEN.
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!
THEN I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU FROM NOW ON, TOO.
..EXCUSE ME, ISAO-KUN'S FATHER.

KO-
KOUTAROU-SAN...!
AH!
ISAO-KUN HERE HAS BEEN MAKING FRIENDS WITH ZEN AND MYSELF.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
NICE TO MEET YOU MY NAME IS WARASHINA.
THIS IS MY SON ZEN
NICE TO MEET YOU!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING CARE OF MY SON
SAME HERE
HE'S ALWAYS VERY KIND TO ME.
I'M ENVIOUS THAT YOU HAVE SUCH A WONDERFUL FRIEND, ISAO.
ZEN-KUN, WON'T YOU PLAY WITH ME AS WELL NEXT TIME?
AHA HA
HE'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO.
HE SAID WE'VE BEEN "MAKING FRIENDS"...!

I WAS IN BED WITH A FEVER, SO I COULDN'T COME HERE.
...YEAH, I'M SORRY FOR THE MISUNDER-STANDING.
PLEASE WIPE YOUR TEARS AND DROOL, MANAGER.
SO YOU DON'T HATE ME AFTER ALL, THEN...!
ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT NOW?
COULD THIS BE WHAT THEY CALL A FEVER OF CHANGE...?
YEAH, I'M FINE NOW.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME.
I FORGOT TO BRING HOME THE ROSE FROM THE OTHER DAY.
S-SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE WILLING TO ACCEPT IT, RIGHT...!?
I'LL GO PREPARE IT IMMEDIATELY!
.....

...I'VE BEEN REFLECTING ABOUT THIS FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS NOW, BUT...
...THANK YOU.
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.
Bring
Bring
SO TO NOT BE A NUISANCE TO YOU ANYMORE, I'LL CONTINUE TO YEARN FOR YOU QUIETLY FROM AFAR!
HM?
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN FORCING MY FEELINGS ONTO YOU SO MUCH THAT YOU'RE SO ACCEPTING ABOUT IT.
AH...
WAIT...
WRONG WAY, MANAGER, WRONG WAY!
THIS'LL BE THE LAST TIME WITH THIS ROSE!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, ISAO-KUN.

COME WITH ME FOR A SEC!
HUH—
stomp stomp stomp
OH! YEAH, SURE, TAKE YOUR TIME!
WAIT ?!
stomp stomp stomp
SORRY, SATOU-KUN! I'M BORROW-ING HIM FOR A BIT!
WHA-
EH?
Shop
un coin de soleil
AH—
HEY,
WHERE ARE WE...
KOU-TAROU-SAN. .
COULD THIS BE...
rustle rustle

I WANTED FOR HER TO SEE YOU.
IT'S AIKO-SAN'S GRAVE.
THANK YOU, KOUTAROU-SAN.
...I WANTED TO SEE HER TOO.
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE CAME HERE FROM THE FLOWER SHOP.
I came empty-handed
I SHOULD'VE ASKED YOU FOR SOME SUITABLE FLOWERS FOR THIS.
OH...

I CAN'T GIVE HER THIS ONE.
YOU GAVE IT TO ME, SO IT'S MINE.
OH,
BUT WE HAVE THIS ROSE HERE.
IT'S PERFECT TO PRESENT IT TO THE ONE YOU LOVE MOST.
THEY'RE ASIATIC DAYFLOWERS, AREN'T THEY?
Dragonflies!?
OH!
WHAT ARE THOSE AGAIN? DRAGONFLIES EAT THEM.
FLOWERS HERE, DADDY!
I'LL HELP OUT TOO.
TAKE ONLY A LITTLE BIT SO THEY CAN'T TELL, ZEN.
They said we shouldn't pick any flowers that grow next to the graves, though.
AIKO-SAN REALLY LOVED WILDFLOWERS, SO THOSE WOULD BE PERFECT.

Pfffft
Y-YOU SURE A PUNK LIKE ME WOULD BE ALRIGHT?
HEY—
AIKO-SAN.
Pat
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? OF COURSE HE WOULD.
I WONDER IF YOUR LATE HUSBAND WOULD GIVE US HIS APPROVAL...
I REMEMBERED...
SOMETHING REALLY NOLSTALGIC JUST NOW
BECAUSE YOU'RE SOMEONE I FELL IN LOVE WITH, AFTER ALL.

AIKO-SAN,
THIS IS ISAO-KUN.
HE WAS THE LITTLE BOY WHO BECAME A FLORIST BECAUSE HE ADMIRED YOU SO MUCH.
I'M SURE YOU'D LIKE HIM TOO.
HE'S SOMEONE BOTH ZEN AND I REALLY LIKE.
YUSUKE
YUSUKE
.....

WON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY HOUSE TONIGHT FOR DINNER, ISAO-KUN?
OH! I KNOW!
LEND ME A HAND WITH IT, ZEN.
WE ENDED UP LEAVING SATOU-KUN TO WATCH THE SHOP ALONE TOO, SO I'LL TREAT HIM TO DINNER AS AN APOLOGY.
O-OF COURSE! I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO!
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU TOO.
Skim the top off, Zen.
DID HE SAY ANYTHING TO YOU...?
GULP
S-SO...
SO THEN, MANAGER...

HE INTRODUCED ME TO AIKO-SAN AS "SOMEONE BOTH ZEN AND I REALLY LIKE"...!
"ANYTHING?"
I-I MEAN, THAT HE LIKED YOU OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
IT'S OKAY, SATOU-KUN.
KOUTAROU'S "LIKE" HAS A DEEPER MEANING--
THAT
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD READ MORE INTO, ISN'T IT!?
KOUTAROU-SAN AND ZEN-KUN JUST LIKING ME MAKES ME MORE THAN HAPPY.
THE FOOD'LL BE READY SOON, IT JUST NEEDS TO BOIL FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
SINCE ALL HE'S SEEN SO FAR HAS BEEN THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL, HIS EXPECTATIONS OF HAPPINESS HAVE GONE DOWN !

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO SHOW YOU, ISAO-KUN.
HEY, SATOU-KUN?
COULD I GET YOU TO TEND THE FIRE WITH ZEN?
AH?
SURE.
.....

THERE ARE SO MANY FLOWERS THAT ARE BAD AT WEATHERING THE WINTER, TOO...
THEY'RE THE FLOWERS THAT AIKO-SAN LEFT FOR ME.
YOU'VE BEEN TAKING CARE AND WATCHING OVER THEM ALL THIS TIME...

EVEN THOUGH THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT, I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO SHOW IT TO YOU.
IN THE BEGINNING I ENDED UP LETTING A LOT OF THE FLOWERS WITHER AND DIE, THOUGH.
...I REALLY LIKE THAT SIDE OF YOU THAT'S SO FULL OF KINDNESS.
YOU'RE THINKING TOO HIGHLY OF ME NOW!
I REALLY LIKE YOUR THOUGHTFUL-NESS AND SUNNY SMILES, TOO.
I WOULDN'T BE!
IF YOU KNEW ABOUT MY FLAWS, THEN YOU'D PROBABLY BE DISAPPOINTED, THOUGH.

...I UNDERSTAND THAT URGE TO CONVEY TO THE PERSON YOU LIKE THAT YOU LOVE THEM ALL TOO WELL.
I ENDED UP FORCING MY ONE-SIDED FEELINGS ON YOU AGAIN.
AH...! I'M SORRY!
...HUH?
I LOVE THAT STRAIGHTFORWARD AND HONEST SIDE OF YOURS, ISAO-KUN.
AND HOW YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING OF OTHERS FIRST AND PUTTING YOUR OWN NEEDS SECOND, TOO...

THAT PART OF YOU THAT LOVES FLOWERS...
AND THAT PART OF YOU THAT THINKS THE WORLD OF ZEN, TOO.
I REALLY LOVE YOU, ISAO-KUN.

AHA HA
WHAT KIND OF DREAM WERE YOU HAVING, ISAO-KUN?
GUFF GUFF
Flop
... W— WAS THAT A DREAM ...!?
NOPE. THIS IS REALITY RIGHT NOW.
... IS... IS THIS STILL A DREAM...?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT LAST NIGHT, ISAO-KUN?
Your bed-head is cute
GUFF GUFF
HOW DID THINGS END UP LIKE THIS...?

HA HAHA
IT WAS REAL.
NISE
...EH!?
THAT WASN'T A DREAM ..?
YOU FAINTED AFTER I KISSED YOU LAST NIGHT.
So I just put you in the futon like that and let you sleep
N-NO!
NOT AT ALL!
SHAKE SHAKE
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR STARTLING YOU LIKE THAT.
I'LL MAKE SURE TO LET YOU KNOW IN ADVANCE BEFORE DOING IT NEXT TIME
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR HAVING CAUSED YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE!
FLUSTERED
I— I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT, BUT BESIDES THAT—
...AH!!
TODAY IS A RESTOCK DAY. .!
OH!
ARE YOU OKAY ON TIME?
..NE— NEXT TIME ...!?

...WHY DO YOU THINK HE KISSED ME...?
CLACK
TO BE HONEST, I WAS REALLY CONFUSED ABOUT IT, SO I JUST WANTED TO HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF THERE...
IF YOU WERE IN THAT KIND OF SITUATION ALREADY, YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LET ME HANDLE THE STOCKING ...!
... IF—
...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT CALMLY, THERE'S A CHANCE IT COULD'VE BEEN JUST A GREETING OR MAYBE BECAUSE HE FELT SYMPATHY FOR ME...
...YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT!?
That's really rude to him!
YOUR SINCERITY WAS WHAT MOVED HIM!
PLEASE JUST STOP WITH THE EXCUSES AND WAKE UP AL-READY.
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE THAT KOUTAROU-SAN ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

SO DON'T GET CAUGHT UP BY SOMETHING WEIRD LIKE THAT. THINK ABOUT HOW KOUTAROU-SAN IS FEELING.
.....
THAT'S WHY I UNDERSTAND FULL WELL HOW MUCH KOUTAROU-SAN LIKES YOU!
IT WAS THAT WAY WITH ME TOO!
Y-YES SIR! I'M SORRY!
IF YOU GET IT, STOP SAYING SUCH STUPID THINGS AND BE STRAIGHT-FORWARD LIKE ALWAYS!
AND THEN, AND THEN-

I THINK THE MANAGER WAS STILL UNCONSCIOUS FROM FAINTING, THOUGH
OH YEAH?
THAT MUST'VE BEEN A LOT OF FUN.
LOTS OF FUN!
YESTERDAY, WE SLEPT IN THE T.V. ROOM WITH DADDY AND ME AND ISAO-KUN TOGETHER!
WE AAAAALLWAYS SLEEP IN THE FUTON ROOM, BUT, BUT
MAYBE I'LL COME SLEEP OVER WITH YOU GUYS NEXT TIME TOO.
!
FOUR OF US SLEEPING TOGETHER!
Flower Shop
un coin de soleil
AIKO-SAN'S LAST WORDS TO ME WERE, "MAKE SURE YOU GO OUT AND FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH."
un coin de soleil
.....
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE LIKE THAT AGAIN.
BUT BECAUSE I LOVED AIKO-SAN, AND I HAD ZEN WITH ME,

...THANK YOU VERY MUCH...!
I'M REALLY GLAD I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
"MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
BUT EVER SINCE THE FIRST TIME YOU SAID YOU LIKED ME, I'VE HAD THIS SPECIAL FEELING ABOUT IT.
BUT I LOVE YOU TOO, ISAO-KUN.
THAT FACT WON'T EVER CHANGE.
I STILL LOVE ZEN THE MOST.
PLEASE TREAT ME WELL FROM NOW ON...!
S-SAME HERE!
PLEASE KEEP TREATING ME WELL.

COME HERE FOR A SEC, ISAO-KUN.
OH, AND ALSO—
I'M ACTUALLY A REALLY BIG PERVERT.
I WANT TO GRADUALLY DO MUCH MORE EXCITING AND AMAZING THINGS TO YOU, ISAO-KUN.
AMAZING... AMAZING THINGS...!?
ARE YOU DISAP-POINTED?
...I-I'M NOT...!

End